

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of managing group finances for a group that includes a plurality of group members via an electronic network, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:
establishing a group fund corresponding to at least one shared expense of the group;
receiving transaction details from a member of the group via an electronic network, said transaction details describing a group expense and identifying at least one of the plurality of group members responsible for said group expense;
assigning said transaction details to said group; and
allocating said group expense specified by said transaction details among group members of said group.
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein said method further comprising~~ comprises the steps of repeating said receiving, assigning, and allocating steps for a plurality of transactions.
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein said method further comprises the steps of~~ comprising balancing finances of said group.
4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said balancing ~~step~~ includes ~~the steps of~~:
rounding up an original expense value to a new expense value having a predefined number of decimal places; and
distributing a difference between said new expense value and said original expense value to a third party.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving ~~step~~ comprises acquiring transaction details which include a shared expense containing an expense amount and at least one group member responsible for said expense.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving ~~step~~ comprises acquiring transaction details which include remuneration details from a group member.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving ~~step~~ comprises acquiring allocation details dividing financial obligations of said group among said group members.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said establishing ~~step~~ comprises the steps of:

acquiring group fund details; and

storing said group fund details in a group fund database.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said allocating ~~step~~ includes the steps of:

debiting said group fund with an expense specified in said transaction details; and

allotting said expense among said group members in a manner specified in said transaction details.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said allocating ~~step~~ includes the steps of:

crediting said group fund with remuneration specified in said transaction details; and

allotting said remuneration among said group members in a manner specified in said transaction details.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein said method further comprises the step of~~ comprising settling said group fund via said electronic network.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said settling ~~step~~ comprises the ~~step of~~ accepting electronic deposits into said group fund.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said accepting ~~step~~ comprises collecting a credit card electronic deposit into said group fund.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said accepting ~~step~~ comprises collecting an electronic check deposit into said group fund.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said settling ~~step~~ comprises the ~~step of~~ transferring funds from said group fund to a financial institution account of a group member.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein said method further includes the step of~~ comprising emailing group members to notify them of their outstanding balance in said group fund.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving ~~step~~ includes the ~~step of~~ receiving said transaction details from a form appearing in a web page.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said allocating ~~step~~ further includes the ~~step of~~ generating a web page interface with a form reporting allocated expenses.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving ~~step~~ includes acquiring an authorization of ~~said payment~~ of the group expense from said group members.

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21. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method as described by of claim 1, wherein said group expense described in said transaction details corresponds to the purchase of one of goods or services.
22. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method as described by of claim 1, wherein said at least one shared expense of the group that said group fund corresponds to corresponds to a future purchase of one of goods or services.
23. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method as described by of claim 1, wherein said transaction details describe a payment made by at least two members of the group on behalf of the group.
24. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method as described by of claim 1, and further including the step of comprising charging a group member interest for paying said group fund late.
25. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method as described by of claim 1, and further including the step of comprising determining that a group member has made an early payment and paying said group member interest on the amount of the payment until said payment is due.
26. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method as described by of claim 1, and further including the step of comprising determining that one group member is delinquent in paying his share of a group expense and removing said one group member from said group.
27. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method as described by of claim 1, and further including the step of comprising determining whether one member of the group would like to ask other members of said group to settle up, and if so to contact said other members via the electronic network to settle up.

28. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method as described by of claim 1, wherein said transaction details describe an amount paid by at least two of the group members on behalf of the group.

29. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method as described by of claim 1, wherein said transaction details specify a plurality of, but not all of, the group members to assign said transaction to.

30. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method as described by of claim 1, ~~and further including the step of~~ comprising determining when any of the group members owes more than a predetermined amount of money, and subsequently reminding said any of the group members via e-mail to settle up.